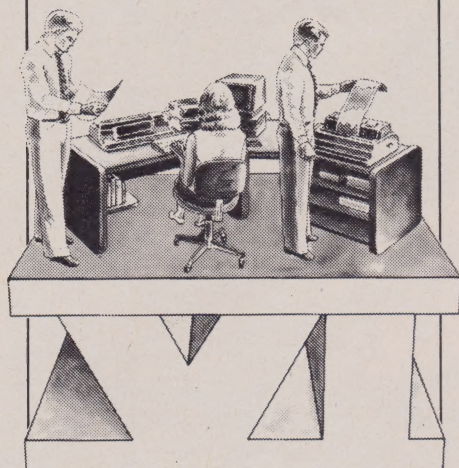


**Mihoko Lee:  
Nova Scotia's silk  
farming pioneer**  
Page CS6





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## The first stop to animal heaven



LESLEY MCKEE

*What do you do with your pet once it has departed this life? Simple, says Shubenacadie veterinarian Ross Ainslie: Give it a proper burial*

By Lesley McKee

Shubenacadie is best known as the home of the Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, but it also has the lesser known distinction of being the home of Nova Scotia's only animal graveyard. Since the first plot was dug over 18 years ago, the Ainslie Animal Farm Cemetery has filled over 1,200 plots.

Veterinarian Ross Ainslie has set aside over 30 acres on the 700-acre horse farm that has been in his family for six generations for the sole purpose of burying people's dearly departed pets. "The farm was originally a dairy farm," says Ainslie, "but is now a place where people can board and breed their horses, as well as bring their horses who need surgery, treatment, then rehabilitation to go back to the function of what they were doing before, whether it be racing or riding." Indeed it is obvious that the farm is very much a haven for live animals as well. Dogs are boarded here, cats are found wandering everywhere, and ducks are often seen waddling from the pond around the barns.

Dr. Ainslie started the cemetery as an afterthought because many of his patients' masters wondered where they could lay their late pets to rest, since it is not permitted by law to bury pets within the city limits. Ainslie says, "People feel secure about burying their animals at the graveyard, because the farm has been in my family for so long that they know it isn't likely to be sold." Dr. Ainslie, himself, recently buried his 18-year-old cat in his own private plot of the animal cemetery. This was the sixth family pet laid to rest in 30 years on the Ainslie Farm.

The Ainslie Animal Farm Cemetery is just one of over 200 members of the International Association of Pet Cemeteries of the United States. The registration fee for 1984 was \$195. The IAPC has a code of ethics that all its members must follow. "Through being a member of the IAPC, information concerning landscaping and other related ideas are sent to you," says Dr. Ainslie. Other IAPC members are Pet Haven Memorial Park, Pet Paradise, Pet Memorial Gardens, and Peaceful Hills Cemetery, all located in the United States. According to Dr. Ainslie, "The animal cemetery industry is big business in the U.S. Many have slumber rooms where you can view your pet in its coffin and pay your last respects."

Included in Roland Harvey's job as manager of Dr. Ainslie's farm is the upkeep of the animal cemetery. Over the years Harvey has buried horses, cats, dogs, guinea pigs, and even, occasionally, budgie birds and a few parrots.

The best known horse buried on the Ainslie Farm is Brewer's Gallon, the famous North American trotting horse who died in 1971. He belonged to B.C. Cruikshank, the first President of Sackville Downs Raceway. Brewer's Gallon was at his peak in 1950, winning race after race. In that year the winning stallion posed in a picture with Barbara Ann Scott, the Canadian figure skating champion. The headlines read: TWO CANADIAN CHAMPIONS.

The burial costs at the Ainslie Animal Farm Cemetery vary depending upon the size of the animal. The

**CITYSTYLE**



costs are \$125 for toy dogs and cats, \$150 for medium sized dogs, \$175 for large dogs, and \$200 for giant sized dogs (St. Bernard - 200 lbs. and over). Included in the burial cost is a white cross on which is painted the pet's name and master's surname, as well as future perpetual care. "Some people lay their own engraved tombstone on the lot and arrive with their pet in a child's casket or one they've made themselves," Harvey says.

The cemetery also has a communal burial spot that is much cheaper than individual plots. The cost ranges from \$10-20. Here the animals are buried together without markers. This area is separate from the special burial grounds, Ainslie says.

In winter months when the ground is frozen, making it impossible to dig graves, those who wish to wait may have their pet placed in a freezer in any one of Dr. Ainslie's five veterinary clinics in Halifax until spring. The cost to have a pet frozen is \$15 a month.

According to Ainslie, "Some people make provisions in their will stating that on their death their animal will be put down and buried in the Ainslie Animal Farm Cemetery at the same time they are. Some feel that no one else can look after *their* animal. People love their animals and do get very attached to them; so, when they die, often people want to do something nice for their pet for the last time."

"Some people visit their pet's gravesite and plant new flowers more often than they do for their relatives. Many say a prayer or a few words each time they visit their pet's gravesite."

Several of the animals whose masters have placed tombstones on their gravesites have engraved quotes and messages. Jessica's tombstone reads, for example, (1970-1981) **BELOVED NEWFOUNDLAND OF VALERIE AND STANLEY, "SLEEP WELL, SWEET DOGGIE,"** and Cito: **IN LOVING MEMORY OF CITO, REG. #5525941, FAITHFUL GERMAN SHEPHERD (Jan. 1, 1963-July 8, 1975) NEVER FORGOTTEN BY THE RAE FAMILY.**

All types of people take advantage of the service, Harvey says — old and young alike. The most prominent gravesites belong to the basset hounds, Clarabell (September 20, 1965, to July 18, 1975) and John (March 4, 1967, to December 3, 1978) who are **"EVER REMEMBERED AND EVER LOVED."** Their owner was MLA Roland Thornhill and his family.

Joyce Thornhill, who is a proud owner of a skye terrier named Mac-Tavish, says she still visits both Clarabell and John's gravesites from time to time, as well as those of her son's two late dogs, a beagle and a collie, who are also buried in the cemetery. She says, "It is stated in my will that

when I die, any remaining animals that I have will be put down and buried in the animal graveyard at the same time."

The late poodle Pierre Trudeau is also among the many deceased pets in the Ainslie Animal Farm Cemetery. His master, Lois Johnson, a senior citizen living in a Halifax apartment, says, "Pierre was like the baby I never had, and I wanted him buried properly with a real tombstone."

She says, "The cemetery is like the happy hunting ground for all dogs and cats because you can hear the birds singing among the apple trees, and on one side of the cemetery you can see

the horses and their young colts, and on the other side are the barns. It makes me feel so much better to know where Pierre is laid."

"When I die," she says, "I want to be cremated and have someone take my ashes to the animal cemetery and shake them over Pierre's gravesite."

In 1982 Paul Muller buried both Lilly (15 years old) and Tux (5 years old), two whippet dogs, at the Ainslie Cemetery. He has since reserved four other plots for his remaining three whippets and German shepherd.

According to Harvey, "There are many sad days and tears shed around here."

C

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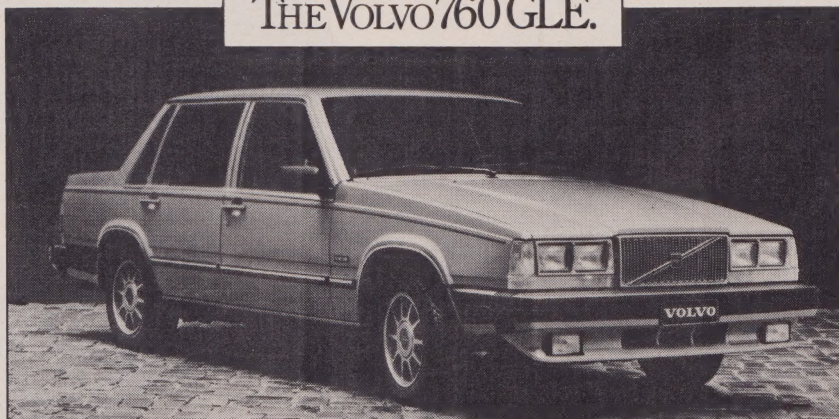
Recently, one of the largest automobile clubs in North America ended its annual search for the optimum family sedan.\*

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# "Uh honey... Are you sure this neighbourhood is safe??"

If there's anything Halifax's Halloween pub crawlers love more than a good party, it's a great party. And that's why Dale Thompson advises any late night shoppers who are faint at heart to get their buying done immediately. For on the last weekend of this month, Brunswick, Barrington and Argyle Streets will likely be packed solid with Count Draculas, Frankensteins, wicked witches, ghouls and zombies.

"We expect the downtown area to fill up with more than 20,000 'trick or treaters' this year," says Thompson, organizer of Halifax's second annual Halloween Mardis Gras. "The event will be huge. It may last the whole weekend."

While not exactly a tradition yet, the Mardis Gras has been going on, in one way or another, since 1981. Thompson, a self-proclaimed entrepreneur and former executive director of the Atlantic Ballet Company and Halifax Dance Association, came up with the notion of a Halifax Halloween Mardis Gras during a trip to New Orleans at the height of that city's much more famous event. "I felt if New Orleans could do it, then so could Halifax," he says. This is only the second year the Halifax event has actually been organized.

The climax of the Mardis Gras is the costume competition, to be held this year in the Metro Centre. Contestants will pay a \$5-10 entry fee. Thompson says the contest is open to everyone, though awards usually go to contestants whose costumes show hard work and originality. Last year's winner won a trip to Quebec City's Winter Carnival for carrying around an almost perfect facsimile of his own head for most of the evening. This year Thompson says the grand prize may be a trip to New Orleans.

"We're actually getting a lot of co-operation this year from the city," Thompson says. "Because we're expecting a huge crowd, we're asking if we can close Argyle Street."

Thompson says he's getting calls about the Mardis Gras from places as far away as Winnipeg. The interest, he believes, has to do with the good reputation the event has developed in past years. "We've had no security problems. There were no reports of vandalism last year — no violence." And though he expects Mardis Gras to attract even more people than it did last year, he doesn't anticipate serious problems this year.

For more information, call 422-6966. **C**







Photos by  
Chris Reardon  
and John Davis

**CITYSTYLE**



# Creating a new downeast cottage industry

PHOTOS BY ALBERT LEE



*Dartmouth's Mihoko Lee is the first Canadian ever to be granted a licence to raise silkworms for the manufacture of silk. The experience, though exhausting, has let her realize her Japanese heritage*

By Jill Cooper Robinson  
**T**he sight of 10,000 freely roaming silk caterpillars happily munching away on a canopy of mulberry leaves may not be by itself a shocking one. Unless, of course, these caterpillars happen to occupy the trunk of Mihoko Lee's tiny car. Anyone who has ever observed caterpillars of the Gypsy Moth devour a favourite tree knows the essence of these creatures' short, active lives is eating. And if they can't eat all the time, which is what they prefer to do, they must eat at least once an hour. That is why Lee dares not leave her caterpillars unattended, and why whenever she feels the need to escape her home in one of Dartmouth's quiet suburbs, she simply packs her

bugs in boxes and takes them with her. In fact, Mihoko Lee's caterpillars spend quite a bit of time in her car trunk. Because her caterpillars are ravenous, she must search endlessly for new sources of food. Her summers are spent hard on the heels of rumours of "an old tree up near Scotsburn...at least they said it was a mulberry!" Until her own orchard of about 200 trees, just outside of Halifax, matures enough to provide her worms with a ready and constant supply of food, she must depend on the kindness of strangers who might own or know of mulberry trees within driving distance of her home. But this is a price Mihoko Lee is willing to pay to be a pioneer in Canada's

newest agriculture — the cultivation and manufacture of silk, or more precisely, sericulture.

There are few things that disappear as quickly as a mulberry leaf set gently atop a handful of hungry silkworms — maybe an ice cube on a hot skillet. In one second pinprick black holes appear in the leaf, in two seconds the holes are big enough for caterpillars to crawl through, in three seconds the edges of the leaf are hopelessly ragged, in four seconds the holes and the edges begin to meet. In five seconds nothing is left but the main vein of the leaf.

While Japan has now developed an easily preserved manufactured food composed of mulberry leaves mixed

with other vegetation, and while it is possible for silkworms to live awhile on the leaves of other trees, the quality of silk produced by domesticated worms fed solely on mulberry leaves is so high it makes all the trouble of finding mulberry trees worthwhile, says Lee (see sidebar). It takes her several grocery carry-out bags of leaves per day to feed her hungry brood.

How did she get herself into such a labor-intensive occupation, you ask? In the most serendipitous way. Cleaning her son's room three autumns ago she unearthed several large, cream-colored, very "feathery" moths. She guessed their identity but had entomologist Barry Wright of the N.S. Museum confirm it. They were hatched silkworm moths from the science project done by one of her sons. Long forgotten, cool, battered



by the collected paraphernalia of a child's bedroom, who would have expected them to survive? More to the point, how many mothers would have responded as Lee did? She is a woman of sentiment, courage and imagination. Recently divorced from the husband with whom she had immigrated to Canada from Japan, homesick for roots and native land, she recalls thinking, "these moths are part of my family. I must rescue them. I must take care of them."

In her two-and-a-half years of hobby farming, Lee has discovered what silkworm farmers over millenia have known — namely, that silkworms are delicate creatures, dying off at the slightest change in air freshness. She couldn't use a household or personal aerosol near her worm "nursery." Silkworms like to have a background of soft human noise. Bangs and crashes put them off their food. On the other hand, they do not like to be left to eat alone for long. Silkworms have four sleep periods, each lasting two days. They emerge from their sleeps larger and lighter in color. At hatch they are pure black, eyelash-sized. By the time they are fat with protein and ready to spin their cocoons, they are ivory colored and about the size of your little finger. The whole process takes approximately 45 days, again depending upon temperature and other conditions.

But after her first two or three seasons, Lee discovered much of her stock was dying. Those worms that survived were spinning poor cocoons and laying fewer eggs. Her brood suffered all the predictable effects of inbreeding. Enter Agriculture Canada, and Mihoko Lee became the first person in Canada to receive a licence to import silkworm eggs for commercial farming purposes. Getting the licence wasn't easy. Agriculture Canada had to thoroughly check the circumstances behind Lee's venture. So while government computers stumbled over the definition of the word "egg," Lee anxiously fussed over the increasing mortality of her "family." Finally, she discovered the

## Myriad uses for a luxurious fabric

It takes the thread of 50 cocoons to yield enough silk for a single handkerchief. Obviously, no matter how prolific the female moth, worldwide silk production is not huge by the standards used to measure, say, cotton or polyester. This keeps the price of raw silk high: 20 times more for silk than an equal quantity of cotton.

Sericulture is not unique to Japan. Several countries cultivate silkworms. British silk was used for the wedding dress of the Princess of Wales. Not all silkworms, however, are the same nor do they spin silk of equal value. All are butterflies or moths, order Lepidoptera. But only *Bombyx mori*, the domesticated commercial silkworm, prefers the mulberry leaf and in return gives up a fibre which is longer, stronger, easier to spin and weave, has a desirable natural sheen and

takes color better than all the other types of silk.

Except for the fact that domesticated silkworms are so food-fussy, sericulture is a sound business to get into. Silk's new-found uses continue to keep pace with market needs. Silk is an insulative fibre, keeping you warm in the winter and cool in the summer. It "wicks" (draws moisture from your body), making it a fabric of preference for those sportsmen and workers who labor in cold or uncomfortable climates. It is strong and durable and is used in sports equipment, dentistry, surgical prostheses, and even in micro-surgery. The oil from steamed pupae is used in cosmetics in many cultures. Little need be said about the place of silk in the luxury goods market, except that from ancient times through the present, silk, like gold and diamonds, is a standard.

number of worms she needed to ensure healthy generations and high quality silk was so great she could never support them on donated leaves. So she bought a piece of land outside Halifax and brought in an entire orchard of mulberry trees. Japanese farmers get four generations of silkworms, or, more precisely, the worms' silk-yielding cocoons, in every mulberry

year. But in our slightly shorter season Lee can get only three 45-day caterpillar generations.

As the trunk of Lee's car is apt to be filled with caterpillars all summer, her kitchen freezer is filled with silkworm eggs all winter. She has discovered the eggs freeze well — up to eight months at a time. These are the eggs of the few breeding moths al-

lowed to complete the cycle from cocoons to moths. The end of the line for most pupae comes at the moment they have finished their one-day, mile-long silk spinning process. They are steamed or boiled in wellwater over wood ash. This kills the pupae before they have time to mature. Steaming or boiling also releases the end of the silk thread, which is simply unwound.

Freezing the eggs over the winter months gives her a break. But this won't always be so, for once the business is established this will be the time for spinning, dyeing and weaving. Lee's purpose in sericulture, beyond the expressed one of honoring a tradition of her native land for herself and her three children, is to introduce and interest the Canadian public in this type of agriculture, and modestly, "to be of some use" to the handcraft profession in the Atlantic Provinces, which she says has earned international acclaim for skill and originality.

It is a huge gamble and represents an extraordinary donation of hard work. It is work far worse than human babysitting; so only the most patient need apply. But the Japanese are a patient, resourceful and determined people. Mihoko Lee seems a likely candidate for success. **C**



Lee with silk moths, worms and cocoons: an ancient tradition



# Selling that good ol' time religion

*Beula Guymer's Christian Nook bookstore in Dartmouth has everything for the fashionable born-again Christian: heavy metal gospel albums, biblical quiz games, evangelical aerobic manuals, even inspirational key chains*

By Ken Burke

If anyone ever asks where that old time religion has gone to, direct them to a small, unassuming store at 200 Portland Street in Dartmouth, and they won't be far off the mark. There, Beula Guymer — "Ma" or "Grammy" to Christian Nook regulars — can introduce you to more inspirational books, cassettes, videos, comics, albums, plaques, key chains, stationery and other assorted evangelical bric-a-brac than you ever



Beula Guymer and family market religion to save your soul

thought possible. It is a place where modern merchandised society, the family-run corner store, and born-again Christian fundamentalism all collide, sometimes in unexpected ways.

Run by Beula with her son Tom and grandson Gary, The Christian Nook began in 1972 out of her need for Sunday school supplies. "It was very hard for me to get over to Halifax to get the material I wanted," she recalls. "So I asked the Lord if I

might open a Christian bookstore."

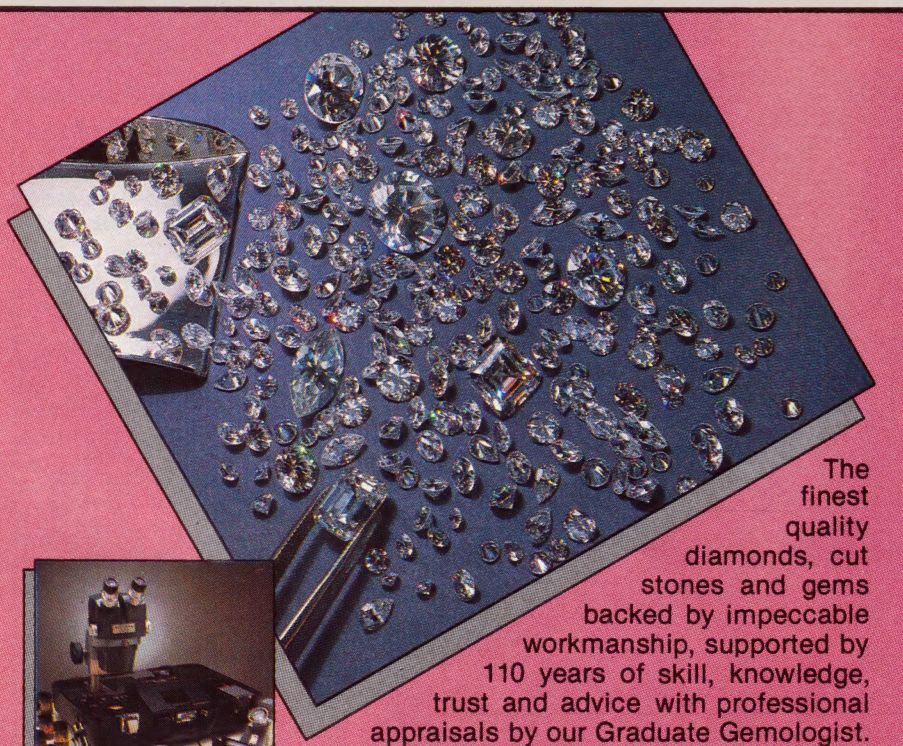
"It was work that started just for the Lord and He helped me get it started. He's the one that helped supply all our needs."

When Beula Guymer talks as if the Lord is her silent partner in business, that's because as far as she's concerned, He is. She calls the customers of her little shop "my people" and interjects "Bless you" and "Bless your heart" freely when talking to others. The hunched-over limping walk she gained from being struck by a car in 1981 has only just begun to slow her down at 69 "years young." "I'm a little bit decrepit outside, but I'm young at heart," she grins.

What first was only a one table operation in a Pleasant Street flat has become a thriving business with far more than just Sunday School supplies and simple bibles for sale. "We've diversified," says Tom, who retired from the navy two years ago to work full-time in the store. "This is the Christian Nook. It's not just a bookstore. What we're trying to do is run a Christian general store."

*General* is the only word that could begin to describe the stock stuffed, crammed, and otherwise wedged into the Guymers' little store.

There are penlight "Bible Highlighters," "Jesus is my Answer" keychains, and children's puzzles with messages of "Read Your Bible" embedded within. The quickly expanding music section features everything from traditional hymns to heavy metal rock albums (see sidebar) advertised under the nickname "Permanent Wave," and not one but eight different aerobic exercise albums. With names like "Believerage," "Exercise for Life," and "Aerobic Celebration II," these long-playing items utilize



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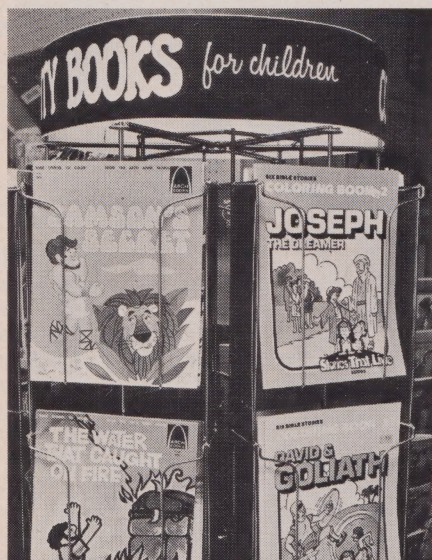
CITYSTYLE



pop Christian songs in creating exercise programs to help firm up the soul as well as tighten the buttocks.

The store stocks Bible quiz games ("The latest craze," says Tom) remarkably similar in concept to modern trivia games. In one, "Biblical Quest," players answer questions based on the Bible such as, "Did Jesus have to pay taxes?" (the answer is yes). The object of the game? To get to HEAVEN, located in the centre of the vinyl playing surface.

There is even an evangelical video game, selling for a mere \$39.95 and compatible with Atari 2600 units. In "The Music Machine," the package describes the game as follows: "Symbols representing character-building qualities (the Fruit of the Spirit) are raining down from above. Stevie and Nancy need your help to collect the symbols and avoid the mischievous pudgeons... and with each gift of love you collect, the symbols rain heavier... and faster."



The Christian Nook's spiritual heart is books

The centre of The Christian Nook's focus is books, however.

The store has a plentiful supply of bibles, in several translations, as well as spoken voice cassette tapes. The more serious devotee of the bible could choose from numerous heavy volumes such as *Abingdon Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, the *New Bible Dictionary*, or *Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament*.

Still, there is more than enough room in the store's overcrowded shelves for lighter reading. For the need to laugh at this mortal life, Kel Groseclose, a Christian Stephen Leacock, may have something up your alley in *Three-speed Dad in a Ten-speed World*. Perhaps you gain inspiration by creating culinary delights. Then *Aglow in the Kitchen*, a book of "recipes and inspiration to enrich your family's life," may be for you. If that

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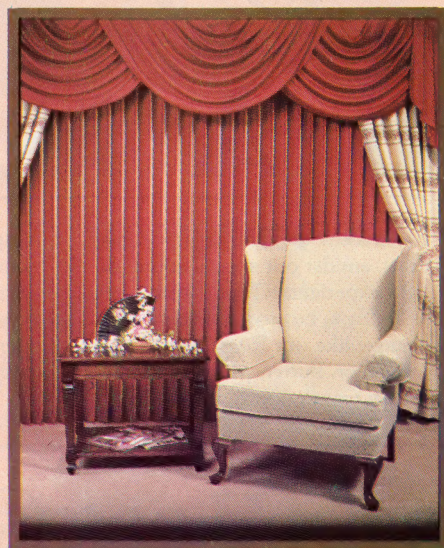
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fails, texts can show how to be *The Total Working Woman*, and *How to Be Attractive to Men*. The latter offers the helpful advice that, "A man cannot derive any joy or satisfaction from protecting a woman who can obviously do very well without him."

Sometimes real men aren't enough, and even in Christian life a yearning for fantasy takes over. But Serenade Books — "Guaranteed 100% Romance" on the cover — provide a wholesome, Christian alternative to Harlequin Romances. In the world of Serenade Books, there exist such emotional peaks as, "HE IS A CHRISTIAN! Katie exulted. AND NOT JUST A SUNDAY CHRISTIAN, HE

BELIEVES IN PRAYER!"

Despite the wide range of material in the store, the one thing Beula Guymer looks for in ordering new products is a solid base in the scriptures. "Good bible teaching is what I'm interested in having for the people," she says. Much of the store's stock also comes from the requests of regular customers.

Many of these regular customers come back as much for the atmosphere as the store's stock. "They're very friendly people," says Joann Richardson. "Just about every Christian I know comes in here," says Peter Feves. "It's a really friendly Christian atmosphere you'll find in the

store." Feves said the store has had a very important place in his life for the seven or eight years he has been a customer. "I try to follow the Lord's lead — I'm buying tracts to hand out right now."

Among the tracts and comic books available at the Christian Nook, however, are a series by Chick Publications which tell of widespread druid virgin sacrifices, satanic druid beats in rock music, and conspiracies by the



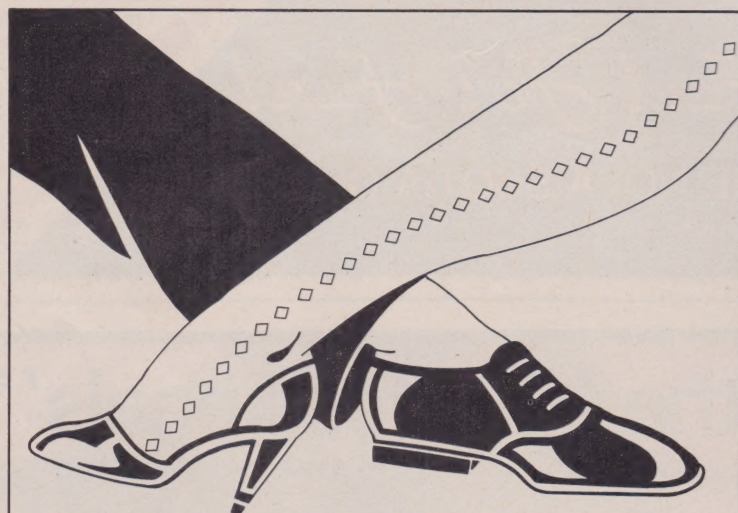
For the fashionable born-again Christian?

People's Republic of China to enslave the world. One tract on homosexuality, entitled *The Gay Blade*, states: "Out of Satan's shadowy world of homosexuality, in a display of defiance against society, they come forth.... It's like a demonic power that controls them — only Christ can overcome it, if they'll accept him as their personal savior."

"There's no way you can read everything," says Tom Guymer. "You scan info sheets and read the flyleaves in books, but you can't keep up. I'm not a big reader, myself."

Oh, well, as the lyrics in a rock song by the Christian group "Servant" go, "Everything is so available, you don't have to be bored no more." **C**

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# Rockin' your way to salvation

The screeching of feedback from electric guitars splicing the air, and the plodding bass and drum beat which pounds out the shape of a hard rock song are all familiar. But as the vocalist starts to wail, something sounds different — radically different — about the music on this record. When the band reaches the anthem-like chorus, it's clear what's going on. "When will you begin to see the love of God?" shrieks the lead singer-cum-evangelist in leather and jeans.

Welcome to the incredible — not to mention contradictory — world of Christian rock music.

Traditionally associated with genteel white-clad singers like Pat Boone, or with church choirs and quartets, gospel music has been diversifying, much like the entire "Christian Industry." That means using any and all means possible to spread The Word in the lean, mean '80s. As Keith Wells, the born-again host of a Sunday morning hard rock Christian show on Q104 FM says, "There's got to be another way other than *Amazing Grace* to reach young people."

For years, Christian evangelists had known there was a genuine generation gap in the way of youth converting to their message. They demanded that the kids change. The kids didn't. It doesn't take a born-again marketing genius to see why young people weren't excited about the music their religious friends or parents preferred. Without even considering the content of the lyrics, the music was square. B-O-R-I-N-G. So, something had to give.

As a result, Christian rock groups, with names like Stronghold, Bond Servant, Petra, and the REZ band (Resurrection Band) are now wowing youth with the unlikely combination of guitars and bibles. Their records are by far the hottest selling item in Christian bookstores in Halifax and regularly achieve "gold" record sales status in the United States. "It's the modern gospel music that people are looking for," says Molly Austen, manager of the Canadian Bible Society's Halifax bookstore.

Joey Taylor is the keyboardist for the group Undercover, best known for an album called "God Rules" and a new wave rave-up of the hymn *Holy, Holy, Holy*. As Taylor said in *Word* magazine, "Punk and New Wave were just getting started at the time (of our conversion) and we saw right away that this was the tool that God had given us. We got a clear calling to minister to people in that subculture. The Lord just said, 'Go get 'em.'"

The resulting marriage of bible-thumping and laser light shows is all the more surprising for its use of a form of

music evangelists have been condemning for years as being "of the devil." Mass rock record burnings are still periodically organized to counter the threat posed to youth by rock and roll. But just what that threat is differs from individual to individual. Most see the problem with rock music being that it promotes an immoral, un-Christian lifestyle through most of its lyrics. "The Christian rock is there to substitute for the evil rock — if young people like rock, they can have it with a Christian message," says Molly Austen.

A more extreme position holds that Satanism is inherent in rock music and that *all* rock songs are updated versions of druid music for invoking devils. One evangelical comic book states that, "One of the greatest victories of the occult world was to penetrate the 'Christian' music with their satanic beat...."

When asked about the "druid connection," Wells rolls his eyes, and makes a gesture of tired dismissal with his hand. "I don't think that's worth an answer at all," he says.

— Ken Burke



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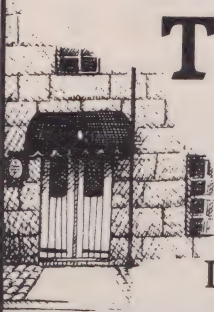
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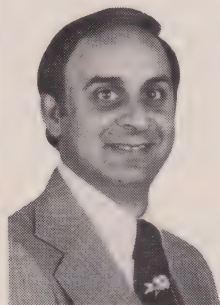
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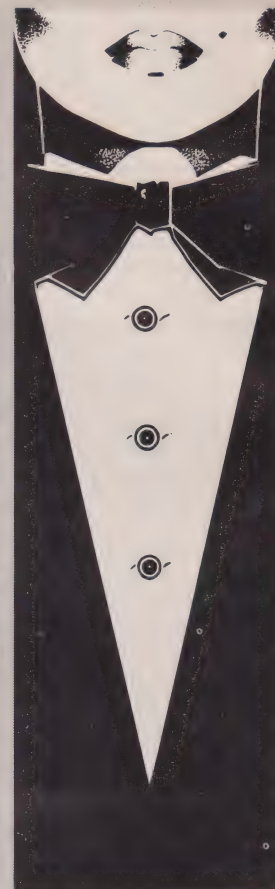
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**Anna Leonowens Gallery.** (N.S. College of Art & Design). Sept. 18-Oct. 12. Gallery I: *Faculty Collections Exhibition*. Organized by Riduan Tomkins. Oct. 16-Nov. 2. Gallery I: Gerald Ferguson, *Landscapes and Seascapes*. 1891 Granville St., 422-7381, Ext. 184. Hours: Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Closed Sun. & Mon.  
**Art Gallery of Nova Scotia.** Sept. 14-Nov. 4. Main Gallery: *From the Heart: A selection of 297 artifacts organized by the National Museum of Man from the collection of the Museum's Canadian Centre for Folk Culture Studies.* Made possible by the generous assistance of the Allstate Foundation of Canada. This exhibit also found

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in Mezzanine and Second Floor Galleries. 6152 Coburg Rd., 424-7542. Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri., Sat., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Thurs., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun., 12 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

**Dalhousie Art Gallery.** Oct. 4-Nov. 11. *Gerald Ferguson: Works, 1978-1984*. An exhibition covering seven years of work by Halifax artist Gerald Ferguson. This exhibition, in a variety of media including paintings, drawings, sculpture and documentation, centres on Ferguson's interest in the temporal character of the art object. These gallery works provide complex readings of the relationship between art and physical reality, the value of the art object, and "maintenance" as a metaphor for accommodation to changing realities. Accompanying the exhibition will be an information folder with an essay on Ferguson's work by Toronto critic Peggy Gale. The public is cordially invited to attend the opening on Thursday, Oct. 4, at 8 p.m. The artist will be present. Dalhousie University Campus, 6101 University Ave. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-5 p.m.

**Dartmouth Heritage Museum.** Oct. 9-21: Mary Moore, mixed media. Oct. 22-Nov. 4: Marlene Garnett, mixed media. 100 Wyse Rd. For information call 421-2300.



**Manuge Galleries.** Sept. 2-Oct. 13. Exhibition and sale. The work of *Robert Harris, 1849-1919 R.C.A.*; important portraits, landscapes painted in the Maritimes, Ontario, Quebec,

British Columbia, United States and Europe. Harris is best known for his painting, *The Fathers of Confederation*, and for numerous portraits of important people of his day. 1674 Hollis St., 423-6315. Hours: Closed Mon.; Tues.-Fri., 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

**Mount Saint Vincent Art Gallery.** Oct. 19-Nov. 11. Downstairs: *Paintings* by Kristen Scholfield-Sweet and David Haigh of Halifax. Upstairs: *Inner Visions: Photographs of the Turn of the Century Work Places*, courtesy of the Public Archives of Canada. Bedford Highway, 443-4450. Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1-5 p.m.; Tues., 9 a.m.-9 p.m.

## CLUB DATES

**Peddler's Pub:** Lower level, Delta Barrington Hotel. Oct. 1-6: *The Aviators*; Oct. 8-13: *Track*; Oct. 15-20: *Intro*; Oct. 29-Nov. 3: *The Customers*. Hours: Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 11 a.m.-Midnight.

**The Village Gate:** 534 Windmill Rd., Dartmouth. Oct. 1-6: *Rocks*; Oct. 8-13: *Armageddon*; Oct. 15-20: *Surface*; Oct. 22-27: *The Customers*. Hours: Mon.-Wed., 10 a.m.-11 p.m.; Thurs.-Sat., 10 a.m.-12:30 a.m.

**Little Nashville:** 44 Alderney Dr., Dartmouth. All country. Oct. 1-7: *Eric McRoberts*; Oct. 8-14: *The Gold*

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*Strikers*; Oct. 15-21: *Bill Anderson & Whiskey Fever*; Oct. 22-28: *Morn'n Sun*. Hours: Every night, 9 p.m.-3 a.m.

## THEATRE

**Neptune Theatre.** Halifax. Oct. 12-Nov. 11: *Cabaret*, featuring Victoria Snow and Maurice Gaudin. Hailed as one of the most popular musicals of the century. Set against the vibrant backdrop of decadent Berlin just before the beginning of World War II. Tickets available at Neptune Theatre Box Office. Call 423-7300.  
**Dalhousie Theatre Productions.** Dalhousie Arts Centre. Oct. 17-21. Studio

One: *See How They Run*, a delightful English farce. Admission free.

## IN CONCERT

**Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.** Dalhousie Arts Centre. Oct. 4: *John Allan Cameron* in concert; Oct. 5: *Eritage*, Quebec group performing contemporary and traditional folk music; Oct. 10: *Symphony Nova Scotia*; Oct. 12: *Seldom Seen*, contemporary bluegrass; Oct. 16-17: *Atlantic Ballet Company*; Oct. 19: *Ramsey Lewis Trio*, jazz, gospel, R & B, Latin and pop from the United States; Oct. 26: *Chris Whiteley and Caitlin Hanford* performing country, western and rockabilly; Oct. 27:

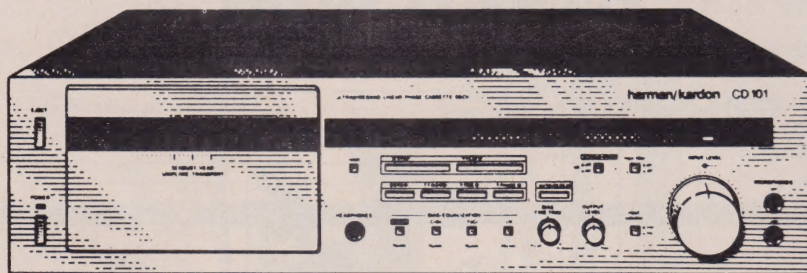
*Orchestre Nationale de Lille* of France. Tickets available by phoning 424-2298.



## MOVIES

**National Film Board Theatre.** 1671 Argyle St. Oct. 4-7: *Raging Bull* with Robert DeNiro and Cathy Moriarty. Directed by Martin Scorsese, U.S.A., 1980; Oct. 11-14: *The Wanderers* with Ken Wahl and Karen Allan. Directed by Philip Kaufman, U.S.A., 1979; Oct. 19-21: *Accident* with Dirk Bogarde and Stanley Baker. Directed by Joseph Losey, Great Britain, 1967; Oct. 25-28: *Kagemusha* with Tatsuya Nakadai. Directed by Akira Kurosawa, Japan, 1980. For further information call 422-3700. **C**

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# Higher education is not a privilege

By Peter Rans

Many parents and educators are wondering if Nova Scotia's young people will be able to afford the high cost of a university education in the coming years. The Nova Scotia Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education, which is analysing the problem, received its last brief in April. And within eight months, it will make recommendations on the future of higher education in this province.

I don't envy the Commission its task.

Appointed by the provincial government over a year ago, the Commission is confronted with university administrators, faculty, staff and students who believe that government has inadequately funded higher education while at the same time avowed such education should be high quality and accessible to everyone. On the other hand, government has repeatedly stated it is satisfied with the way its money is spent by universities.

It's still too early even to guess at the conclusions the Commission will reach. But from the briefs it has received, it faces some serious issues. The most explosive issue is the matter of student quotas at provincial universities. If limited enrolment is indeed the wave of the future, the Commission must come up with a mechanism that does not deny academically qualified students admission because they or their parents are too poor to foot the bill of a university education. The Student Unions of Nova Scotia and other interest groups are convinced government, with its insufficient student aid and job creation programs, is seriously undermining the ability of students from low and middle income backgrounds to attend school.

One pressing issue is whether government should continue to listen to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC). This body makes recommendations to the provincial governments of N.S., N.B. and P.E.I. on the level of funding colleges and universities should receive. Over the last four years, the Nova Scotia government has consistently given less to universities than the MPHEC has recommended. This, in view of recent statements made by N.S. Education Minister Terry Donahoe, leads one to believe the province is seriously considering withdrawing from the MPHEC.

Another point is whether Nova Scotia's institutions should be more concerned with job-specific and professional training degrees. A variation of this discussion is the proposition that the province should establish a new level of post-secondary schools similar to Quebec's community colleges. In either case, such a change in educational emphasis would require far more money than the province is currently providing for higher education. And many university educators also believe this could lead to an erosion of academic freedom since monies received might easily go towards government approved courses.

***“Professional training degrees may require far more money than the province is willing to provide”***

One of government's long-standing claims is that there are too many degree-granting institutions in Nova Scotia. Government has often suggested, for example, that Halifax should host only one university. Some observers, however, point out with irony government's decision to elevate the University College of Cape Breton and Truro's Agricultural College to degree-granting status.

All these issues have enormous political and social importance. The provincial government is apparently worried that it doesn't understand and can't control its post-secondary institutions. And though

these institutions are more than willing to explain what they do and how they work, they are nonetheless alarmed by the prospect of bureaucrats making academic decisions and formulating university policies.

The Royal Commission is faced with myriad challenges. Many of the briefs it has received present different points of view or stress different problems. The Commission must somehow resist an information and opinion overload. It must balance and sort out the various educational claims of the universities and the government's conviction that too much money has already gone into a system that defies understanding. And most importantly, the Commission must be seen to have reached its conclusions without succumbing to the pressures of any particular interest group — government included.

And there's another, more frightening prospect.

Despite its weaknesses, the MPHEC is the only body separate from the provincial government capable of understanding the problems of the province's universities and the region's educational needs. Will the Royal Commission suffer the MPHEC's fate of trying to communicate to a government that will be hostile to its conclusions?

Probably the most hopeful sign in higher education in recent years is the growing level of co-operation, in the face of government confusion, between Halifax universities. Anything the Commission can do to further this trend will be enormously beneficial to educators and administrators in this province.

The unhappy truth is that governments are notoriously poor prophets of what jobs will be available in the country five or ten years down the road. We can only hope that whatever the Commission decides, it will make clear that, of all of Nova Scotia's natural resources, human resources are paramount — that a well-educated population will be better equipped to deal with technological change when it comes. And the message to government should be: Money spent on higher education is money invested in everyone's future.

*Peter Rans is the former president of the Dalhousie University Student Union. He has recently earned a PhD in English literature.*



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